

THE EXCITER

Formerly Called Gutter Dope, Established in 1934.

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SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

FEBRUARY CLUB MEETINGS ON THE 3rd & 17th 8 P.M. AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE PERRY SHANKLE CO., 1801 S. FLORES ST.

ALAMO YLS

Officers elected for 1961 are Inez, W5WXT, President, Frances, K5KQG, Vice President, and Aileen, K5OPV, Sec. and Treasurer. The January meeting was held at the QTH of W5WXT. It was reported by the Certificate Custodian that 67 ALAMO YL Certificates have been issued. Certificates went to all districts and to four DX stations as follows:

W1 district with 5 issued; W2 with 4; W3 with 4; W4 with 8; W5 with 22; W6 with 6; W7 with 4; W8 with 5; W9 with 2; and W0 with 3 certificates issued. DX stations receiving certificates were Canada 3 and Puerto Rico 1.

Next meeting of the ALAMO YLs will be held on March 12th at the QTH of K5OPV at 127 E. Creath. Any YL interested is invited to attend.

QRZ THE EDITOR

This month we would like to say a few words for the promotion of using GMT for Amateur Service. Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) is used throughout our Armed Services where the exact time and date is of utmost importance. Of course, in amateur service there is not the importance attached to time as there is with the Military. But, since we are required by law to maintain a Log of each transmission, it might as well be maintained in a manner that will not only be standard among amateurs, but will be useful as well. With GMT we have a common language that may be

used by Hams worldwide. No matter where you live or who you contact, the time and date will be the same if you both are using GMT. Think how simple this would make checking the log for verification of DX QSOs. Since most Hams use the 24-hour clock system anyway it is relatively simple to change to GMT. In the Central Time Zone you just add 6 hours. If the time has gone past 2400 hours you just change the date to the next day. Incidentally, after 2400 the next minute is recorded as 001 and not 2401, Hi. Better still, change your station clock (what you don't have one?) to GMT. This saves a lot of converting that may lead to mistakes, oops!

Seriously, I Believe that if every Ham would begin using GMT that it would result in a noticeable improvement in results of contests, field days and certificate hunting, not to mention the establishment and meeting of schedules. If I still haven't sold you on the idea, try reading Operating News in QST for August and November of 1960 and January of 1961.

M. D., K5PKX
73,

ARRL BULLETIN 783

February presents an excellent opportunity for every amateur to test his frequency measuring skills by participating in an ARRL Frequency Measuring Test. W1AW will transmit signals for measurement at 2130 EST February 15, 0230 GMT February 16, on approximately 3666, 7009 and 14,050 kc. A second series of test

Editor	K5PKX
VHF Editor	W5LFM
DX Editor	W5LGG
Mobile Editor	W5EJT
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THE SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB W5SC	
W5HHE, Pres.	W5IWE, V. P.
K5VCR, Sec.	K5TYI, Treas.
W5DKF, Program chairman	

signals will be transmitted at 0030 EST, 0530 GMT, February 16 on about 3636, 7045 and 14,135 kc. Each participant will receive an individual report comparing the accuracy of his measurements with those of a professional frequency measuring laboratory. Further FMT details will appear on page 75 of February QST.

DOOR PRIZES

At the 6 January Meeting the following door prizes were won: \$2.50 certificate from Modern Electronics Co. by K5MOF; \$2.50 certificate from Sherman Electronics Supply by K5SJB; \$2.50 certificate from Bill Case's Sound by W4ANZ/5; and the Printed Circuit Board of the Month from Irving Electronics by Jayne Hilderbrandt. Then at the 20 January certificate from Modern Electronics Co. to W5IWE; \$2.50 certificate the prizes went as follows: \$5.00 from Radio & TV Parts to K5SJB; \$2.50 certificate from Sherman Electronics Supply to K5PKX; \$2.50 certificate from Bill Case's Sound to W5EJT; and the printed circuit board

from Irving Electronics to K5VCR. Everyone attending the club meetings is eligible to win a door prize. Be sure to be present for each meeting. Who knows, you may be the lucky winner next time!

DX NOTES

Long path DX is well known to twenty meter operations; and during the sunspot peak just passed, long path openings occurred frequently on ten and fifteen meters as well. But did you ever hear of long path forty meter DX? This unheard of phenomenon was recently verified by several DX'ers who own forty meter rotary beams. In early January 1961, both W8FGX and K2DGT worked stations in Japan, India and Central Siberia in the middle of the afternoon, U.S. time. The forty meter signals were 589 with the big beams pointed S/SE. Signals dropped to zero, however, when the beams were aimed N/NW, the usual short path direction. To my knowledge; these contacts, since repeated by other big beam owners, represent the first verified long path amateur radio forty meter DX.

Naturally, this raised speculation as to whether or not long path DX occurs on 80 meters. It certainly seems possible; and I feel certain that some ambitious DX'er will erect a 80 meter rotary beam before too long and give it a try. (Can you imagine the size of an 80 meter three element beam??)

Silent Keys: It is with great regret that the DX fraternity notes the pass-

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ing of Bert Brown, W4FU and Everett Mayer, KP4KD. Bert was many times national SS and DX contest winner; and Ev was the leading Puerto Rican DX-er for the past several decades. Both of these fine gentlemen will be long remembered by all who worked them.

On the brighter side; the New Year brought with it several new prefixes, each of which is guaranteed to generate a pile-up bigger than the Baltimore Colts' goal line stand. Watch for 5N2, Federation of Nigeria; FH8, Camoro Island; and 9C2, Sultanate of Oman; and if you hear them, give me a call too! Remember, I'm always glad to hear from any of you on any DX matters. The phone number is PE 6-1322.

73 and DX,
Len, W5LGG

VHF AND UP

EXPLORER VII, which was to shut down its transmissions on 19,990 mc. after a years operation on 13 Oct. 60, by means of a transistor watch similar to one now on the market for \$250, was still putting out vital solar data on 12-13 Nov. 60. It was on this date that the sun blasted forth with one of its most powerful flares of the decade. Scientists are over-joyed the TX didn't shut off as planned because of the valuable data which it sent back from space. But, along with Vanguard I on 108.025 mc., this makes at least two satellites transmitting without surcease! And Van I may stay up for

2000 years!

ECHO I is again making favorable passes in darkness and should be visible for several orbits each morning before sunrise.

Propagation conditions for the north Atlantic path as broadcast by WWV at XX09:30 and XX49:30 have been rather poor for the past month. In a few short months, the 28 mc. band will go out for long paths for about 5 years, opening up only for short paths when sporadic E clouds are present.

Now that the excitement and glamour of the IGY have passed, which was made to coincide with high solar activity, anyone wishing to do more than local contacting on the VHF bands will have to seriously up-date their equipment.

While the sun was acting up from '56-'60, distant contacts were easily made around the clock on 15 thru 6 meters, the likes we may never see again. Wet strings functioned quite well as antennas at these times, and the writer even received 41-48 mc. TV programs from Europe using just a pocket screw driver as an antenna.

At times it was difficult to separate sporadic E from high MUF and transequatorial scatter, so abundant were the transmission modes. But now the VHF bands are becoming quieter; erratic Es will be the mainstay when it occurs. Now is the time to turn to more refine and detailed plans. Perhaps there is interest enough in a group to try a moon bounce project

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or meteor trail reflection at 6 or 2 meters. Perhaps the VHF man can for man amateur radio astronomy group to listen in on the Milky Way or maybe even go out whistler hunting late at night.

There is certainly a number of challenging things to be done where the amateur can profitably experiment as they have always done in the past. Nowadays, not even the sky is the limit. Video begets knowledge.

Cal Graf, W5LFM

40 METER PHONE

It appears that with the higher bands closing out earlier, forty meters is attracting numerous stations that have not been on the band. Also, foreign broadcast stations are frequently heard on 40.

Several visitors were in town—K4TYH, Charlie, from Memphis, Tennessee was in town for a week. Charlie expects to get back on 40 before long.

Ron, W8ILC, of Dayton, Ohio brought his car back to San Antonio and has been operating 40 mobile with a good signal.

DX on 40 Phone that has been worked by some local stations are: PZ1AY, PJ3AD, HI7CJY and CO2-ZQ.

Locals heard on the band—K5ZYC (a new general), K5YNS, W5BGT, K5HTB, K5VFC, W5FZN, K5VCR, K5TGA, K5MDK, K5BGZ, K5TXB, K5OID, K5YHX, K5ALX, and K5-

HZR. Incidentally, K5BGZ, Fred, is a new resident of San Antonio.

If you have any news for the 40 Meter column, please call K5MOF at PE 2-7124.

73,

Aubrey, K5MOF

A MESSAGE TO ALL ARRL MEMBERS

I want to take this means of thanking ARRL members of the West Gulf Division for the fine support given me in my race for Director of the West Gulf Division of ARRL. Every effort will be made by me to merit the confidence you have shown in electing me your Director.

There is much to be done in our Division. I would like to call on each of the ARRL members of this Division to act as a missionary in building up our ARRL membership in Oklahoma and Texas. We have approximately 11,000 amateurs in this Division with only around 4,500 members belonging to the League. I can't reach these non-affiliated members individually but you can help me to do so.

In 1965 we have another Frequency Allocation Conference. It seems some of the nations were not too happy with the outcome of the last conference and have called another for 1965. We need every amateur in this and other Divisions to back the League up in our fight to keep the frequencies we have so enjoyed in the past and that we hope to enjoy in the

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JIM K5TYI

future. Only by a concerted effort can we accomplish this and continue to enjoy the hobby we all so dearly love.

From time to time I will do my best to keep you informed concerning League activities and rulings handed down by the Federal Communication Commission. The American Radio Relay League is your League, individually and collectively, and your all out support of the League is earnestly solicited by your Director.

Any suggestions or criticism will be welcomed by me and I will do my utmost to accomplish the things you desire as long as they serve for the betterment of Amateur Radio. I would appreciate your putting your suggestions or criticism in writing that they might go into my file and I assure you each letter I receive will be given full consideration by me and your ideas carried with me to the Directors Meeting in May.

I have no doubt after the fine support given me that I will be able to depend on the amateurs in my Division to give me full support in my representation of you. This Division is on an up-trend as far as Amateur Radio is concerned. Let's keep up the good work. "United we Stand, Divided we Fall" were never truer words spoken.

Yours for the betterment of Amateur Radio.

Roemer O. Best W5QKF
Director West Gulf Division

HELP WANTED

Mr. Raymond A. Garren, W5HHE
109 Thoraine Blvd.,
San Antonio, Texas
Dear Raymond:

While in QSO with John Beckham, Jr., K5WIC, 1015 James Parkway, College Station, Texas, who is the Route Manager for the South Texas Section, he told me that they were badly in need of some one in San Antonio to handle traffic on CW. He said that he need not be a 40 word per minute operator, that they will slow down to any speed that they check in at.

This net meets at 1900 hours and 2000 hours each evening, 7 days a week, on 3770 Kcs. They meet just before and just after the RNS net session. If you know of anyone that can help these boys out, at least, part of the time, it will be appreciated very much by them, as well as myself.

I am sending this to you, as President of the San Antonio Club, and would appreciate it, if you will bring this up before the club.

Thanking you, and hope to see all of you sometime soon, I am

73

Roy K. Eggleston, W5KEM
SCM
South Texas Section.

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NEW HAMS

Congratulations to the following newly licensed Hams: K5FVW, John B. Miller, dropped the N from his call with a Technicians ticket. John is using a G 50 and a 5 element beam. John is employed by the city as an Engineer.

KN5FWR, Allan M. Morris, is a freshman at South San High School. Alan, who is 14 years old, does not have a rig yet but hopes to build one and get the General ticket real soon.

KN5FXF, William H. Steussy, of New Braunfels. Sorry we didn't get to talk to Bill yet so we can not give a report on his set-up. Maybe when he reads this he will drop the Editor a line at Box 62, San Antonio.

CALL BOOKS

Do you have any old Call Books lying around? Like to do a good turn for a Ham in a foreign country? If so, get in touch with W5EJT, Gene Jank at 100 N. Winston Lane, San Antonio 15, Texas. Gene will see

to it that those old Call Books get to some Ham in another country. Besides, you probably need a new book anyway. Most foreign Hams are unable to afford the Electronics publications that we take pretty much for granted. We can very easily make this a "Hands Across The Sea to Hams Across The Sea" project.

GUTTER DOPE

W5OZQ is doing a little DXing for a change. Just cleaning the cobwebs out of his rig.

W5LFG plans to erect another tower at his QTH. With dual Harmonics arriving, where will the poor storks light?

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